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**State of Vermont**

**Department of Mental Health**

Office of the Commissioner  
108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70  
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov>

[phone] 802-652-2002  
[fax] 802-652-2036  
[tty] 800-253-0191

*Agency of Human Services*

September 11, 2009

Melinda L. Estes, M.D.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Fletcher Allen Health Care  
111 Colchester Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401-1473

Dear Dr. Estes:

Thank-you for making a conceptual proposal in response to the RFP issued by the Department of Mental Health regarding acute psychiatric inpatient care. A review committee comprised of legislators, advocates, and mental health service providers, met this week and has requested additional information regarding Fletcher Allen's proposal. We ask that you respond to these questions by close of business on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Additional information is requested on the following:

1. Does Fletcher Allen Health Care have an expedited proposal to operate a satellite program off the main Burlington campus? If so;
  - Please bring it forward now,
  - Why this is an option at this time (e.g. what has changed?).
  - How would this be capitalized?
  - What is the timeframe and major project milestones for this option?
2. What are the capitalization options for construction of a new program on the main campus? Could FAHC capitalize this and accept enhanced rates for services over time?
3. Will you rely on security guards for management of acute psychiatric patients requiring restraint or seclusion?
4. How do you see this proposed program as part of the larger system to insure that every patient has a bed even if your program is at capacity?
5. How do you define acute care and how would the needs of patients who may stay for long periods of time be met?
6. Are there any statutory changes you feel would be necessary or important to the proposed program's success? (For instance, non-emergency involuntary medication, admission of

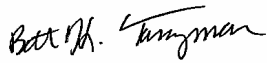
court ordered evaluations without physician order and retain in hospital post physician recommendation?)

7. The collaboration principles set forward by FAHC in this proposal state that the VSH replacement service “is a fundamental obligation of the State. . .” How then do you see the mission of FAHC and its role in providing tertiary care to the most seriously ill in Vermont?
8. Please specifically identify inconsistencies you see between the FAHC collaboration principles and the collaboration framework set forth by DMH in the RFP.

Please direct the responses to my email ([btanzman@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:btanzman@vdh.state.vt.us)).

I do appreciate that this is a very rapid response schedule and wish to thank-you in advance for the work the FAHC team will put into responding to these reviewer questions.

Sincerely,



Beth Tanzman  
Deputy Commissioner

BT/psp

cc: Michael Hartman  
Meg O'Donnell  
Robert Pierattini